

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CU-04 IO-13 AID-05 SS-15 L-03 NSF-01 CG-00

DOTE-00 COME-00 FEA-01 INT-05 INR-07 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 NEA-10 ACDA-07 CEQ-01 /126 W

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O 250434Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3892

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XV, UNESCO, AORG, AR, NZ

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION
OF BIOMASS RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

REF: STATE 200506

1. REFTEL DISCUSSED AUGUST 25 WITH MFA ANTARCTIC AFFAIRS
OFFICER (BAKER), WHO ADVISED THAT GNZ HAD RECEIVED
IDENTICAL AIDE MEMOIRE FROM ARGENTINES AUGUST 17. BAKER
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SAID GNZ VERBAL REPLY TO ARGENTINES WAS NEGATIVE AND HE
PROVIDED COPY OF FOLLOWING MFA TELEGRAM SENT TO GNZ
MISSIONS IN LONDON, WASHINGTON, CANBERRA, PARIS AND
SANTIAGO:

"WE EXPLAINED TO (ARGENTINE CHARGE) LEDESMA THAT OUR
ASSESSMENT OF THIS QUESTION WAS BASED PRIMARILY ON

SCIENTIFIC RATHER THAN POLITICAL FACTORS. OUR CONCERN WAS THAT COORDINATION BE CARRIED OUT BY THE COUNTRY OR BODY WHICH IS TECHNICALLY BEST EQUIPPED TO HANDLE IT. WE FOUND THIS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE AS LAYMEN AND WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE THE FINAL ASSESSMENT TO THE SCIENTISTS.

"LEDESMA PRESSED FOR A NEW ZEALAND VIEW ON THE DESIRABILITY OF FOCUSING THE WORK WITHIN SCAR AS OPPOSED TO SCOR. WE REITERATED THAT WE HAD NO STRONG FEELINGS ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. MEMBERSHIP OF THE TWO BODIES WAS SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME. WE DID STRESS HOWEVER THAT IF IT WERE AGREED THAT SCAR WERE TO ASSUME THE COORDINATION ROLE THAT WE WOULD BE UNHAPPY IF THIS WERE TO RESULT IN A SITUATION IN WHICH SCOR MEMBERS NOT REPRESENTED ON SCAR (E.G. FRG) WERE SUBSTANTIALLY HANDICAPPED. WE STRESSED THAT WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, THE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION AND SCIENTIFIC INPUT OF SCOR MEMBERS SHOULD NOT BE IN ANY WAY AFFECTED.

"YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT THE EXCHANGE THROWS A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT LIGHT ON OUR ATTITUDE TO THIS QUESTION. FIRST THE PROPOSAL ITSELF IS SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT ORIGINALLY PUT TO YOU AT THE EPM. SECONDLY, IT IS CLEARLY MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO RETAIN THE TREATY EXCLUSIVITY.

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"IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE SEE LITTLE POINT IN ENTERING A DOCTRINAL DEBATE WITH THE ARGENTINES ON THIS ISSUE. WE WOULD PREFER NOT REPEAT NOT TO SEE ANY MENTION OF THE POLITICAL FACTORS AND FOR THE ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED PURELY ON ITS TECHNICAL MERITS. WE TEND TO AGREE WITH THE UK THAT THE DIE HAS ALREADY BEEN CAST BY THE SCAR/SCOR GROUP, ON WHICH ARGENTINE IS REPRESENTED, IN RECOMMENDING THAT BIOMASS CO-ORDINATION BE CARRIED OUT BY AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP UNDER IOC."

2. BAKER ALSO ADVISED THAT GNZ HAD BEEN APPROACHED INFORMALLY IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF GNZ CHAIRMANSHIP OF IOC GROUP. ACCORDING TO BAKER, GNZ RESPONSE WAS THAT GNZ LACKED CANDIDATE SUFFICIENTLY PREPARED TO HANDLE CHAIRMANSHIP AT THIS TIME AND THAT GNZ COULD PLAY A MORE USEFUL ROLE AS MIDDLE MAN BETWEEN LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE CAMPS, NOT "GETTING OUT IN FRONT" OF EITHER. ADDITIONALLY, GNZ RESPONSE ALREADY GIVEN TO ARGENTINE AIDE MEMOIRE MADE IT POLITICALLY DIFFICULT FOR GNZ TO THEN TURN AROUND AND ACCEPT SUBSEQUENTLY OFFERED IOC LEADERSHIP POSITION. GNZ SUGGESTED THAT IF PREFERENCE IS PLACED ON SOUTHERN

HEMISPHERE LEADERSHIP AUSTRALIA MIGHT HAVE A SUITABLE
CANDIDATE, SELDEN

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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